

Curriculum
Standards & Benchmarks

Social Studies
Grade 8

Standard I Analyze how individuals, groups, and institutions create and change structures of power, authority, and governance			
	1st Semester	2nd Semester	Units
1. Describe the purposes of government and how the powers are acquired, used and justified	X	X	Forms of Gov't; Colonization; Constitution
2. Examine the social contract between citizens and their governments	X		Forms of Gov't
3. Analyze and explain advantages and disadvantages of various forms of government	X		Forms of Gov't
4. Examine ongoing issues involving the rights, roles and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare	X	X	Forms of Gov't; Constitution
5. Explore conditions that contribute to conflict and cooperation among nations		X	Colonization
Standard II Explore and apply geographic knowledge and skills			
	1st Semester	2nd Semester	Units
1. Explain and give examples of voluntary and involuntary movement of humans		X	Colonization
2. Describe how people create places and institutions that reflect cultural values and ideals	X	X	Culture; Colonization
3. Use demographic information to analyze and make inferences relative to the characteristics of different populations	X		Culture
Standard III Recognize how time, continuity, and change affect perspectives and relationships			
	1st Semester	2nd Semester	Units
1. Analyze multiple interpretations of an historical or current event or issue	X	X	Culture; Colonization
2. Examine historic and current resources including propaganda, editorials, other primary sources for a point of view (i.e., gender, race, immigrant)	X	X	Culture; Forms of Gov't; Colonization
3. Use knowledge of facts and concepts to establish a point of view, make decisions and/or take action on a public issue		X	Constitution
4. Understand how knowledge of the past and its trends can help explain current events			

Curriculum
Standards & Benchmarks

Social Studies
Grade 8

Standard IV Applies economic concepts			
	1st Semester	2nd Semester	Units
1. Identify/explain fundamental economic concepts (i.e., supply, demand, production, goods, services, labor, capital private/public services)	X		Economy
2. Distinguish and describe economic systems (i.e., traditional, modern, command, market, informal, formal)	X		Culture; Economy
3. Explain how values and beliefs influence economic decisions	X		Culture; Economy
4. Apply economic concepts to explain historic events, current events, and social issues		X	Colonization
Standard V Examines cultural practices and human interactions			
	1st Semester	2nd Semester	Units
1. Explore the relationship between the arts and society	X		Culture
2. Analyze examples of tension between expressions of individuality and forces of social conformity	X	X	Culture; Forms of Gov't; Colonization; Constitution
3. Examine how information and experiences may be interpreted by people from diverse cultural perspectives and frames of reference	X	X	Culture; Colonization